

Hello, I am Katie Bachiochi, a student at Suffield Highschool. I am enrolled in the school through their Ag program and I am involved with the National Future Farmers Of America Organization. (FFA) To start off, I just want to say I would never be the person I am without that wonderful program. It has so many benefits!

Being in the FFA doesn't just teach us about farming, it teaches us a wide variety of aspects in agriculture. For example I've learned some things you wouldn't first think of when brainstorming around the subject. You can learn how to run a business, genetics through plants and animals, and even marketing! Agriculture is really connected to anything and everything, that is why it is so important to the world.

This program is really a great opportunity to get involved and gain community service. Every student at Suffield Regional FFA is required to have a project(s) that they will develop over the years. This is called a supervised agricultural experience and it's done out of school time. One of my personal projects is working at a community garden. It's so great because I get to do what I love and give back to the community! I thank ag for this wonderful opportunity.

There are personal skills that I've gained that will be really applicable to my life, especially ones I will need later on in college. Supporting ag education will help others have the same experiences I had. I learned to persevere when my plants didn't grow. I also learned leadership, and to take responsibility for my actions when I step up to do something. Our program even helps students find hidden interests. Some students in ag actually go to college for whatever sparked their interests. I found a love for horticulture I thought I would have never had. This program helps students focus and potentially create a plan for the future. Investing in the program will help more students become career ready.